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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

Department for Public Health
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ONE

INTRODUCTION

“We are in business to help Kentuckians be well.”

Department Overview

The Department for Public Health (DPH) is the only agency in Kentucky responsible for developing and operating all public health programs for the people of the Commonwealth. Kentucky Revised Statute 194.030 created DPH to "develop and operate all programs of the cabinet that provide health services and all programs for the prevention, detection, care, and treatment of physical disability, illness, and disease."

In fiscal year 1999, DPH expended a total of **\$178,290,365** with **64** percent of these expenditures from federal dollars. Total expenditures for Kentucky's state and local health departments were approximately **\$320,000,000**, which comes from state and federal funds, local taxes, local agency funds, and fees for services. One of three departments in the Cabinet for Health Services, DPH employs **399** persons at the state level divided among six divisions described below:

1. The **Division of Adult and Child Health (ACH)** promotes the health of mothers and children by developing systems of care and by providing health and nutrition services to women, infants, and children.
2. The **Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning** is responsible for communicable disease prevention and control, disease surveillance and investigation, injury prevention and research, maintenance of Vital Statistics, and health data, including hospital data and county health profiles.
3. The **Division of Laboratory Services** provides analysis and quality control for health department laboratories and reference services to laboratories. The central lab also conducts metabolic screening for all newborns in the state.
4. The **Division of Local Health Department Operations** provides administrative support local health departments in all 120 counties of the Commonwealth. New to this division is the Public Health Nursing Branch, which provides technical support to public health nurses.
5. The **Division of Public Health Protection and Safety** protects Kentuckians from unsafe consumer products, radiation and other toxic exposure, unsanitary milk, adulterated and misbranded food, unsanitary public facilities, and malfunctioning sewage systems.
6. The **Division of Resource Management** develops and oversees DPH's budget as well as local health departments' fiscal planning and their administrative and management practices.

The Department for Public Health's (DPH) annual report for fiscal year 1999 highlights the department's programs and their achievements. The state and county health departments and their private sector partners should all be proud of the positive results reported herein. Kentucky's public health workers have made many positive contributions to promote health, protect against illness and injury, and render personal preventive services to all Kentuckians.

The department continues to fulfill the essential fundamentals envisioned by Dr. J. N. McCormack when the Kentucky General Assembly created the board of health in 1878-- "sanitation, birth and death monitoring, laboratory, and public health nursing." The Department for Public Health takes very seriously its responsibility for maintaining a high level of quality in the services that affect the health of every citizen in the Commonwealth every day. This report describes those programs and highlights the 1999 fiscal year, which ended June 30, 1999.

Status Report

Fiscal year 1999 was one for the books. If someone asked me to describe the year in a word, that word would be *change*. The world around us has changed, and we in the Department for Public Health (DPH) are changing to meet the challenge. Following is a summary of some things that have changed and mention of the things that I expect will continue to change.

First, we were involved in a very large number of major health initiatives. Governor Paul Patton is moving ahead on the Early Childhood Development initiative and First Lady Judi Patton is chairing the breast cancer task force. Senator Gerald Neal is working on HIV and AIDS while Representative Mary Lou Marzian and Senator Vernie McGaha are working on school nursing. Several key committees of the general assembly have asked for information on local health department finances and expect a definition of what a local health department should be in the future. The commissioner's local health work group is working with local health department leadership and DPH staff to develop these documents.

Several years' work on information systems is beginning to produce positive results. EMPOWER Kentucky Simplified Regulatory, the local health network, and Simplified Access have moved along nicely. The data system proposal has received favorable consideration by several committees of the administration, and the Commissioner's Conference on Health Informatics in August with over 150 persons participating. The public health community has been involved in the tobacco settlement discussions since last fall and has submitted proposals for use of these funds for prevention activities.

The Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program (K-CHIP) and changes in the Medicaid program have presented both challenges and opportunities. Public health has been available to support each of these initiatives and continues to work with those programs to develop innovative approaches to combining public health and clinical medicine.

Several local health departments across the state have taken part in DPH assessments, have identified ways to make positive changes, and are making the sometimes-difficult decisions to implement them. The staff in these health departments have "been there and done that" and have ideas and experiences worth sharing and hearing because it is reasonable to expect more change as the country and the state try to manage health insurance, health care coverage, and public health issues.

All across the state health departments are doing things to increase their emphasis on the population and to find ways to strengthen the relationship with their physicians and hospital communities. A number of departments report efforts to work more closely with physicians in their communities. In addition to working with their medical communities, local health departments are having heart-to-heart discussions with their boards and county governments about local funding for public health. Jefferson County and Lexington-Fayette County's discussions have been widely reported in the media. Franklin County passed a health tax in May. Many local health departments have reported tax and funding discussions. Some of these raised the tax level or the fees, and all of them took a hard look at the county contribution to the effort.

Fiscal year 1999 and early FY 2000 have seen a major change in staffing. The retirement bill passed by the 1998 General Assembly stimulated a high number of retirements at both the state and local level. The state DPH saw many of its stalwarts decide to retire as well. Their

contributions and those of many others have built the infrastructure upon which we will launch our future.

For those of us who have stayed on, let me say the same thing. Congratulations for what you have done. You are in a position to define the future of public health for years to come. Thank you for staying on to help and to orient the next generation of Kentucky's public health workers. They will need the benefit of your experience and your wisdom.

You have often heard me speak of my sense that American Indians put a lot of energy into launching the next generation ... to give people roots so they know where they came from and wings to get where they are going. This unprecedented staff turnover gives those of us staying on a chance to do just that. We have the institutional memory to let the new team know where they have come from and the skills and knowledge to prepare them for the next generation of public health leadership.

New Initiatives

In 1999 the Department for Public Health convened a workgroup of staff from local health departments and state staff for the purpose of describing "core public health" activities in terms that made more sense to staff as well as the public. The workgroup agreed that there were seven general categories (presented on the left side of the box on page 5). These seven activities are mandated by statute. Earlier, state and local health department leadership had described the preventive services required by federal and state funding. These are presented on the right side of the box on page 5.

Both state and local public health leaders have acknowledged that Kentuckians have come to expect their local health departments to provide *more* than these mandated services. Relatively generous funding over the past fifteen years permitted many health departments to expand beyond the original mandates. However, in recent years public health funding has not kept pace with the demand for services and has even declined in some cases. This situation has forced the state and local health departments to reassess how they will meet the mandates as well as the expectations.

The workgroup described what a local health department must do to meet its mandates, and it identified opportunities for "negotiation" with other agencies to provide additional services. Although public health policies are often initiated at the national level, they are defined and refined to meet the needs identified at the state and local levels. By starting with a description of what must be done to meet the mandates, we believe that we can determine the best way to ensure a "safety net" that will extend the mandated preventive services to the medically indigent. Determining the means to an adequate safety net will take some time; it will probably require some additional flexibility in program management and fund use; and it may even require additional resources. But, once we figure out how to provide a safety net, we will be able to assure the Commonwealth that preventive services are available to Kentuckians who have no other medical home.

Rice C. Leach, M.D.
Commissioner

Health Department Services

Mandated Services Required of all Public Health Departments	
Seven Core Services Required by Statute or Regulation	Preventive Services for Specific Populations from Appropriated Funds
Enforcement of Public Health Regulations Surveillance of Public Health Communicable Disease Control Public Health Education Public Health Policy Families and Children Risk Reduction Disaster Preparedness	Family Planning Prenatal Care Well Child Care Women, Infants, and Children Adult Preventive Services Chronic Disease Monitoring and Support

The services listed above are required for all health departments. The authority for core activities exists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky's statutes or regulations. The authority for preventive services is found in state budget language and in grants and contracts with agencies of the United States Public Health Service. These preventive patient services were added as state and federal governments appropriated the funds.

Local Option Services Provided after Mandated Services are Assured

Other Population-Based Services

(Negotiated Services)

Other Services for Individuals

(Negotiated Services)

Local health departments at their discretion offer **Local Option Services**. Statute or regulation permits but does not mandate these services. Health departments participating in these activities are expected to be able to compete in the medical marketplace without requiring support from state-appropriated funds. If a community elects to subsidize these services after mandated services have been adequately funded, that is the community's prerogative.

TWO

PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Division of Adult and Child Health

The **Division of Adult and Child Health** is responsible for identifying risks to good health and for developing methods to reduce those risks through population and personal preventive services. The division also sets the standards for the programs described below. Staff are writing standards to focus more on outcomes than on processes. This outcome-based approach also gives local health departments increased flexibility.

Clinical Health Branch

The **Clinical Health Branch** is divided into two sections, the Adult Clinical Section and the Pediatric Clinical Section. The branch implements services for preventive health screenings, provides screening and education for chronic diseases such as cardiovascular conditions and diabetes, and provides women's services that include maternity care, family planning, and breast and cervical cancer screening. The branch also provides technical assistance and clinical oversight to the local health departments' Home Health Agencies, and to DPH's First Steps, Kentucky's Early Intervention System.

The Adult Clinical Section oversees family planning in health departments and other sites so individuals are provided with the information and the means to choose the number and spacing of their children. The funds earmarked for family planning provided comprehensive medical, social, and counseling services through **156** clinic sites in all 120 counties.

The section oversees maternity services in health departments with the goal of reducing maternal and infant mortality and decreasing the need for high-cost neonatal intensive care. Comprehensive prenatal services, which include preconceptional health screening and counseling, nursing and nutrition counseling for pregnant women, preterm birth prevention screening, laboratory tests, and home visits, are available to low income women.

Staff in the Adult Clinical Section provide technical assistance, consultation, education and professional assistance to home health programs operated through local health departments. Home-based services reduce the number of Kentuckians requiring institutionalization.

During fiscal year 1999, the Adult Clinical Section enabled local health departments and other agencies to provide services to the following number of *unduplicated* patients:

- Adult health preventive clinical visits to **277,654**
- Cancer-related clinical visits (primarily breast and cervical cancer) to **49,181**
- Cardiovascular disease visits to **38,543**
- Diabetes visits to **9,745**
- Family planning services to **119,490**
- Maternity services to **9,8817**
- **821,353** medical home health units/visits to **14,154** patients
- **442,352** units/visits of Medicaid Home and Community Based Services to **2,742**

In addition the section provided:

- **96,220** Pap tests
- **9,961** screening mammograms
- **2,158** diagnostic mammograms

The Pediatric Clinical Section oversees the evaluation and treatment of children with inborn errors of metabolism identified by newborn screening, as well as follow-up treatment for infants born with sickle cell disease. The section enabled local health departments and other agencies to provide services to the following number of *unduplicated* patients:

- Children's preventive services to **102,531**
- Referrals to university diagnostic centers for **638** infants with positive or inconclusive results for PKU, galactosemia, congenital hypothyroidism and sickle cell. Five children were placed on treatment for PKU, **14** were placed on treatment for congenital hypothyroidism; and **10** children were identified with sickle cell, **14** with D/G, a galactosemia variant. **1,325** cases of special formula for PKU were provided free or at a reduced cost to **75** patients.
- Diagnosis and early intervention services for chronic illness or developmental delay through First Steps, Kentucky's Early Intervention System to **7,146** children; **5,098** of whom were found to have developmental delays or risk conditions that affect their development
- Genetic testing, counseling and education for **1,335**

The Pediatric Clinical Section oversees child health services provided by local health departments. These services promote the health of infants, children, and adolescents; reduce the incidence of preventable disease, injuries, and disabling conditions; and increase preventive health services for low-income children. Preventive services include health histories, physical examinations, laboratory tests, immunizations, and health education.

Diagnosis and treatment of children with chronic illnesses, evaluation of children with possible developmental delays, genetic counseling, and childhood lead poisoning prevention and screening are other services of the Pediatric Clinical Section. Lead screening was provided for **27,474** children; of those screened, **74** were confirmed as having lead levels above 20 ug/dL. Training in lead poisoning prevention management was given for **180** people from across the nation.

Grief counseling is available to any family whose child has died during the first year of life. Counseling must be offered to all parents who lose an infant due to sudden infant death syndrome. Grief counseling was provided to **194** families, who experienced infant deaths, while counseling was offered to **281** families.

Notable achievements of the Dental Section include the following:

- Fluoridated community water systems served approximately **90 percent** of the state's population
- The Rural School Fluoridation Program served **7,200** students
- The Fluoride Mouth Rinse Program served **41,000** children in grades one through six.
- **7,000** preschool children received fluoride supplements
- **21,000** children in grades K-6 received dental health education

Community Health Branch

The **Community Health Branch** addresses the health of both adults and children. Adult health promotion is aimed at chronic diseases such as breast, cervical, and lung cancers; cardiovascular disease; and diabetes. Prevention efforts include community-based coalitions that facilitate health education and promotion of healthy lifestyles.

Child health promotion includes teenage pregnancy prevention and abstinence education; child injury prevention and SAFE KIDS Coalition chapters; Resource Persons for Teen Moms and the development of healthy new families; a birth surveillance registry; and review of child fatalities to determine preventable causes of childhood deaths. Local health departments assess local needs, build community coalitions, and develop community-based health promotion and health education.

Health educators provided **8,767** programs to **288,979** participants, while the adult health teams provided **1,800** group patient education classes to **53,734** participants and **106** professional education programs for **2,024** participants.

Currently in **91** counties, the Resource Persons Program provided home visiting services by trained para-professionals to **5,003** pregnant and parenting teens. The goals of the program are to decrease incidences of infants with low birthweight and reduce infant mortality, improve parenting skills, and reduce repeat pregnancies in the teen population.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives assisted local health department staff to implement several innovative teen pregnancy prevention curricula in their local schools.

Pre-Teen Postponing Sexual Involvement is based on the Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) curriculum but is modified to be more age appropriate for pre-teens. Approximately **10,000** students in **50** schools received the pre-teen PSI program. Taught by high school students who are peer educators, PSI is a school-based curriculum designed for junior high and middle school students. PSI is abstinence-based and does not include information about contraceptives. Last year approximately **37,000** students in **250** schools participated in PSI.

Reducing the Risk (RTR) is a school-based curriculum that focuses on abstinence. Trainers also discuss contraceptives and their proper use and failure rates. Last year the DPH, through health departments, made RTR available to approximately **22,000** students in **120** schools.

The "Get a Life First, Wait to Have Sex" media campaign was conducted from January – June, 1999. The statewide campaign produced four new television and five new radio spots.

Direct Community Grants

To encourage new approaches for the reduction of sexual activity and pregnancy in teens, Kentucky has allocated \$282,000 to be used to direct community grants in the 1999/2000 school year. Communities may apply for funding of a maximum of \$25,000 for projects that meet abstinence education as stated in the 1996 Welfare Law. Approximately 15 grants are funded each year.

Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch

The **Drug Enforcement and Professional Practices Branch** administers and enforces the Kentucky Controlled Substances Act, the drug and device portions of the Kentucky Food, Drug

and Cosmetic Act, the use of the title “Doctor” or “Dr.,” and the Treatment of Cancer Law. In addition, the program provides technical and professional expertise to licensing boards, local health departments, and law enforcement agencies that enforce controlled substances laws.

Drug Control supplements the efforts of other agencies. The administration and enforcement of the Kentucky Controlled Substances Act directly affects **12,000 to 15,000** persons who are permitted by law to manufacture, prescribe, administer, dispense, possess, or conduct research with controlled substances. The Drug Control Program licenses manufacturers, distributors, and re-packers of controlled substances. The staff works with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Kentucky State Police, as well as local police departments and sheriffs to prevent legal controlled substances from being diverted to illegal channels. Persons who legally possess controlled substances are monitored and inspected for compliance regarding security, record keeping, and labeling. Violators are penalized by either the licensing process or by the criminal justice system. The program also updates the list of controlled substances via administrative regulation.

Activities* of the branch include:

- **1,210** investigations for potential violations
- **17** licensing of manufacturers and wholesalers of controlled substances
- **2,259** consultations with individuals about the drug laws

*(These numbers represent the same numbers found in last year’s report.)

Emergency Medical Services Branch (EMS)

The department’s recent reorganization saw the transfer of the **Emergency Medical Services Branch (EMS)** from the former Division of Health Systems Development to the new Division of Adult and Child Health. This move reflects the role of certified and licensed EMS providers who provide more than **600,000** patient care contacts each year, making EMS a key component of Kentucky’s health care delivery system. For many patients, EMS is their first contact with health care during a medical emergency.

The EMS Branch manages programs that reduce preventable deaths and disability due to injuries and medical emergencies. The branch serves as the department’s lead agency for the planning, development, improvement, and expansion of EMS systems throughout the state. The primary activities of the EMS Branch include:

- Training and practice standards and certification for personnel
- Licensing, inspection, and regulation of ambulance services
- Collection and analysis of data,
- Managing the Senate Bill 66 program that provides matching grants to local governments for purchase of ambulances, equipment, and training
- EMS and trauma systems planning
- Consultation and technical assistance in the development and improvement of emergency medical services

As of June 30, 1999, the branch was responsible for overseeing the training, certification, and practice of **11, 690** emergency medical technicians (EMTs), **2,426** EMT-First Responders, and **221** EMT-Instructors. In addition, the EMS Program administers the Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure’s paramedic program, which currently includes **1,270** certified paramedics.

During the 1999 fiscal year, **\$1,436,381** in state matching funds were awarded to **87** counties and cities to maintain, improve, and expand local emergency medical services. These state matching grants included **\$920,000** to assist in the purchase of ambulances, **\$132,936** to provide training and incentives for EMS personnel, and **\$383,445** for purchasing basic and advanced life support medical equipment, communications equipment, or rescue equipment.

The branch licensed **250** ground ambulance services and **10** air ambulance services. These licensed ambulance providers operated a total of **1,044** ground ambulances, **13** helicopter ambulances, and three fixed-wing air ambulances. All licensed ambulance services and vehicles are inspected at least annually to ensure compliance with state licensing requirements as part of the department's public health standards enforcement role.

Nutrition Services Branch

The **Nutrition Services Branch** administers the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Adult and Child Health (ACH) Nutrition Program. WIC is a federally funded program that sets standards for nutrition services. WIC's primary focus is to provide nutritious foods, nutrition education and, when appropriate, breastfeeding information and referral for intensive care to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants, and children who are at nutritional risk. The program is also responsible for promoting breastfeeding, resulting in **31** percent of low-income women breastfeeding. The ACH Nutrition Program provides medical nutrition therapy and community nutrition activities.

WIC provided approximately **\$65 million dollars** in food instruments in fiscal 1999. WIC serves a monthly average of:

- **30,416** infants
- **16,538** pregnant women
- **2,090** breastfeeding women
- **10,446** postpartum women
- **62,496** children under the age of five

The Food Delivery/Data Section provides WIC food instruments and data reports for USDA reporting purposes. The section processed and distributed more than **four million** food instruments. The section provides assistance to local WIC sites via telephone and electronic communication as well as by on-site training.

The Clinical Nutrition Section helps WIC participants improve their nutrition knowledge, food selections and eating choices through both the WIC Program and the ACH Nutrition Program. The section provides sound nutrition information to health professionals and WIC participants as well as breastfeeding promotion activities and training for hospitals, physicians, and nurses.

The ACH Nutrition Program provides medical nutrition therapy to eligible clients in **104** of 120 counties. The nutritionists provided medical nutrition therapy services to approximately **22,000** patients in health departments. Besides providing diet service to patients, nutritionists conduct in-service education for staff. Many nutritionists provide community programs such as weight loss classes, cooking classes, and menus for day care centers.

The Program Management Section promotes efficient operation of the WIC Program. Staff made **510** site visits in fiscal year 1999.

The Vendor Management Section approves applications, monitors vendors, and provides technical assistance and training to grocers and drug stores. The section also refers groceries to the Office of the Inspector General for determination of improper redemption of WIC checks. On-site monitoring was conducted for more than half the **1,311** participating vendors.

Commissioner's Office

The commissioner's office is responsible for the general management, oversight, and establishment of policy for the Department for Public Health (DPH). It advises the heads of agencies in state government on issues relating to public health, including actions necessary to safeguard the health of the citizens of the Commonwealth. The commissioner serves as chief medical officer of the Commonwealth. Additional roles of the commissioner's office include health care reform, strategic planning, and enhancement of local health departments.

The office coordinates legislation and regulations among the six divisions and between the department and other agencies of state government. This involves reviewing pending legislation for departmental impact, responding to requests from the General Assembly, coordinating presentations before committees, and maintaining communication on legislative issues. The staff also coordinates the department's activities in promulgating regulations and making appointments to various boards and councils.

The commissioner's office staff provides the department's divisions with expertise in the legislative process, such as proposed bill review and administrative regulation development and interpretation.

The director of nursing provides professional consultation to the DPH commissioner, executive staff, state and local health department administrators, and approximately **1,000** nurses practicing in local health departments. She also directs the operation of nurse-managed employee health centers in for state employees. She is also the department's principal nurse consultant to the cabinet, universities, and community-at-large.

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

The **Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning** provides the following services:

- Assessment of the occurrence of and risk factors for preventable diseases and injuries in the Commonwealth
- Policy development related to the prevention of disease and injury
- Assurance of the provision of public health services, primarily through local health departments

Responsibilities of the division include control of communicable disease, disease surveillance and investigation, injury prevention and research, vital statistics, and health data. The division discharges these core public health functions through the activities of its six branches.

Communicable Disease Branch

The mission of the **Communicable Disease Branch** is to eliminate, reduce, and control certain communicable diseases. Local health departments provide direct care while branch staff provide training, educational materials, technical and financial assistance, and program planning and evaluation. The branch is also responsible for the Rapid Response Team that provides support to local health departments in controlling disease outbreaks. The three major programs in the branch are described below.

The Immunization Program provides health departments with vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), poliomyelitis, measles, rubella, mumps, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), *Haemophilis influenzae* type b, and hepatitis A, flu and pneumonia for certain high risk children. The program oversees vaccine procurement, conducts disease surveillance and control, assesses the target population, and informs providers about vaccine-preventable diseases and vaccinations.

This past year, the program distributed vaccine to public and private providers, resulting in the administration of **1,007,000** doses of vaccine to Kentuckians. Local health departments administered **726,000** doses of vaccine, primarily to children from birth to five years of age and to beginning 6th graders. More than **280,000** additional doses were administered by physicians, community health centers, and other agencies, mainly for children receiving Medicaid or without health insurance. Data recently released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show that **83 percent** of Kentucky's two-year-olds have received the required immunizations. This achievement places the Commonwealth 2.4 percentage points above the national average and represents a **20 percent** improvement since 1989.

The Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program works to reduce the number of cases and deaths due to tuberculosis. The number of tuberculosis cases (**101**) in the first half of 1999 has increased by **8.9** percent. The number of persons in the first half of 1999 who had contact with a TB patient and who were examined is **1,836**. Kentucky reported **179** TB cases during 1998, a decrease of 20 cases. This decline is the fifth in a row and is 10 percent below 1997. With a statewide case rate of **4.6** per 100,000 population for 1998, Kentucky falls well below the 1998 national TB case rate. Kentucky has witnessed a steady decline in its TB case rate, down from **12.4** cases per 100,000 population in 1985 to **4.6** cases in 1998.

The Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Program seeks to reduce the occurrence and prevent the transmission and debilitating complications of STDs. Priority is given to persons diagnosed or exposed to early syphilis or to Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV). The program also places a high priority on the prevention of congenital syphilis infection in neonates. The STD program conducts a statewide screening program for gonorrhea and chlamydia infection.

In FY 1999, the STD Program screened **92,289** persons for gonorrhea and chlamydia and found **2,009** gonorrhea and **3,990** chlamydia infections among those screened. Total cases reported in FY 99 were **3,796** gonorrhea, **7,322** chlamydia, **314** syphilis, and **765** other STD infections. Program staff conducted **198** interviews with patients diagnosed with early syphilis. Interviews resulted in **40** persons being brought to treatment for syphilis and **76** others being provided with preventive treatment.

Health Data Branch

The **Health Data Branch**, designated as the state's Center for Health Statistics, maintains a public health database, which collects and distributes information that supports health assessment and planning. The branch compiles data at the county level on health status indicators, demographic trends, and related socioeconomic factors. Within the last year, the branch published the *Kentucky Annual Vital Statistics Report* and published the second edition of a new series of annual reports, *Kentucky County Health Profiles*. Staff also provided responses to **467** requests for vital statistics data.

Health Policy Development Branch

The Health Policy Development Branch provides public and private sectors with timely and accurate information on the cost, quality, and outcomes of health services; conducts research and analysis on health policy; and supports development of a statewide health information system. The Health Policy Development Branch was responsible for the following activities:

Implementation of Senate Bill 343 which requires the collection of health cost data from providers, hospitals, and health facilities and a permanent advisory committee to define quality outcomes measurements and advise the Cabinet for Health Services on data interpretation. The branch has processed more than **900,000** records on health care utilization, both inpatient and outpatient during this year.

Surveys, data collection, and published reports relating to home health, long-term care, hospice, ambulatory surgery, and acute care, rehabilitation, and psychiatric hospitals. These Annual Facility Utilization Reports were published in August and September with more than **875** copies distributed.

In 1999, the branch was instrumental in hosting the Commissioner's Conference on Public Health Information. More than **300** attended the conference, which set the groundwork for improving the way public health data is collected, analyzed, and disseminated in the state.

In conjunction with the Kentucky Commission on Women, the Branch assisted with the publication of the *Profile on Women's Health Status in Kentucky* by compiling and summarizing key women's health data.

The branch is responsible for editing and publishing *Healthy Kentuckians 2010*, a document that will provide an updated agenda for Kentucky's health. The draft will be ready for public comment in November with publication of the official document in Spring 2000.

HIV/AIDS Branch

The **HIV/AIDS Branch** protects, promotes, and monitors the health of the public by prevention of HIV transmission and its associated morbidity and mortality. Staff in the four sections of the HIV/AIDS Branch carry out this mission.

HIV Counseling and Testing offers anonymous and confidential HIV antibody testing, free of charge, in all 120 Kentucky counties through local health departments. Some counties also provide these services to inmates of local jails or prisons. Currently, there are **178** state-sponsored HIV counseling and testing sites in Kentucky. In fiscal year 1998, of **19,924** persons served at Department for Public Health-sponsored counseling and testing sites, **127** were found to be HIV infected.

HIV/AIDS Surveillance is charged with recording and reporting HIV and AIDS cases diagnosed in Kentucky. The staff compiles and distributes statistical reports to more than **825** recipients. The surveillance component completed **261** HIV case reports (a decrease of 34 from the previous year) and **301** AIDS case reports (a decrease of 15 from the same period last year).

HIV/AIDS Prevention consists of three programs: Professional Education, HIV Prevention Community Planning, and Targeted HIV Prevention. The Professional Education Program reviews HIV continuing education courses and school curricula for the education criteria mandated in Kentucky. Staff reviewed **222** courses for continuing education about HIV and sent lists of approved HIV/AIDS courses to **4,017** individuals.

The Kentucky HIV Prevention Community Planning Program has a statewide Community Planning Group (CPG). The CPG conducts needs assessments of existing HIV prevention efforts and resources and recommends intervention strategies to reduce the risk of HIV transmission for at-risk populations.

The HIV Prevention Program reached **26,652** persons in fiscal 1999 through the above activities. Five health departments in higher prevalence areas of the state, work with the CPG to target high-risk individuals. This program reached **10,962** persons.

HIV/AIDS Services offers five programs that provide HIV-related services:

The Kentucky HIV Care Coordinator Program employs case managers, based in six regions of the state, to link HIV-positive clients with health and human services for which they are eligible. This program served **1,334** HIV-infected clients during fiscal 1999, a reduction of **64** from the previous fiscal year.

The Kentucky AIDS Drug Assistance Program (KADAP) assists low-income HIV-positive individuals with purchasing up to **30** HIV-related medications. There were **464** low-income individuals who received assistance, an increase of **46** from the past year.

The Kentucky HIV Health Insurance Assistance Program helped **182** persons at risk of losing existing insurance coverage with their premium payments. The Outpatient Health

Care and Support Services Program assisted **1,205** clients with physical and mental services, substance abuse treatment, benefits advocacy, and nutrition. Finally, the state-funded HIV Care Consortia Program filled in gaps in support services not covered by federal funding. Additionally, **507** HIV-infected persons received support services such as housing, utilities, and nutrition assistance.

Surveillance and Investigation Branch

The **Surveillance and Investigation Branch** maintains an automated register of all legally mandated disease reports from health care providers, facilities, laboratories, and local health departments. The data are used to provide a sound epidemiological database for departmental decision making in disease prevention and control and health promotion. Data are linked to the national level through the CDC's National Electronic Telephone Surveillance System. The branch publishes disease data, along with other timely health care information in monthly issues of *Epidemiologic Notes and Reports* and distributes them to more than **10,000** health care providers in Kentucky. The branch conducts epidemiological studies and provides technical consultations to private physicians, local health departments, and many other individuals and organizations. In fiscal year 1999, the branch reviewed and confirmed **12,273** reportable diseases and received **4,253** reports of diseases not mandated as reportable; assisted in the investigation of seven outbreaks of diseases, and provided **1,791** consultations relating to diseases.

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey is an ongoing statewide telephone survey of adults to learn about lifestyles and health risk factors. More than **5,550** telephone interviews of adult Kentuckians 18 years of age or older were conducted last fiscal year. The results of the survey were analyzed and reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for national comparisons.

The State Public Health Veterinarian consults with health professionals, individuals, and the media regarding zoonotic diseases and other animal/human-related issues of public health significance. In fiscal year 1998 consultations on rabies alone numbered **590**.

The State Injury Prevention Program has two major objectives. One is to maintain a state-of-the-art, population-based, public health injury surveillance system. Surveillance includes:

- Injury case identification from vital statistics death certificates and hospital discharge records
- Emergency medical services (EMS) data collection and analysis
- In-depth surveillance of domestic violence related injuries and firearm fatalities

The second objective is to operate a community-based injury prevention program that focuses on the major causes of unintentional injury among Kentuckians and the regions of the Commonwealth where injury problems are most prevalent. During the past year this program facilitated the installation of **5,000** lithium battery-powered smoke alarms in homes in rural counties and sponsored the distribution of more than **850** child safety seats to low-income Kentuckians.

Vital Statistics Branch

The **Vital Statistics Branch** collects, preserves, and protects certificates for births, deaths, marriages, divorces, and induced terminations of pregnancies which occur in Kentucky and issues certified copies as requested. The branch records and provides for people born in Kentucky a means of establishing their legal identity, age, parentage, and nationality. It also makes available a legal document attesting to the date, place, and cause of every death occurring in the Commonwealth.

There were **53,761** births registered, **38,784** deaths and fetal deaths registered, **42,853** marriages and **22,397** divorces and annulments registered for fiscal year 1999. There were also **17,708** amended birth records.

There were **199,458** certified copies of birth certificates and cards issued for fiscal year 1999. The branch also issued **194,682** certified copies of deaths, **1,793** certified copies of marriages, and **684** certified copies of divorces. For the fiscal year 1999, **\$2,958,345** in fees were collected.

Division of Laboratory Services

The **Division of Laboratory Services** makes reliable laboratory facilities available for the protection of health in the Commonwealth. The division achieves this through the following:

- Providing examinations of clinical and environmental specimens to support other state and local health department programs, and reference testing for hospitals and practicing physicians
- Increasing the effectiveness of laboratory science in improving health status through consultation with state and district health programs, physicians, hospitals, medical examiners, coroners, and industrial hygienists
- Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people from the hazards of improper performance by health laboratories

Activities conducted in support of the Local Public Health Laboratories include the following:

- Coordinated compliance with the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) of 1988 for more than **258** local health department sites through two multiple-site certificates. Division of Laboratory Services staff serves as laboratory director and technical consultants so that local health departments will meet CLIA requirements.
- On-site consultations, training, and proficiency testing to verify local health department CLIA compliance
- **86** on-site consultations to local health departments participating on the multiple site certificate for CLIA,
- More than **530** phone consultations concerning laboratory testing performed in the local health departments.
- Two method validation survey challenges were provided to monitor performance in the categories of Group A Strep, urine pregnancy testing, cholesterol screening, glucose, hemoglobin, hematocrit, and gram staining.
- In consultation with the Division of Adult and Child Health secured a price contract for continuation of the standardized pregnancy test kit.

Activities conducted in support of the division:

- Meeting with personnel to improve Microbiologist Series employment exam
- The Bioterrorism Preparedness Committee has been formed and is actively addressing laboratory capacity and training needs.
- The State Laboratory Inspection was passed with no deficiencies.
- Certification for **57** laboratories that perform prenatal syphilis serology testing
- Screening of **150** telephone calls per day
- **44** phone consultations concerning the prenatal syphilis certification
- More than **40** phone consultations concerning laboratory safety
- **23** training activities and **12** audioconferences.
- More than **200** phone and e-mail consultations concerning laboratory training

Chemistry Branch

The Biochemistry Section performs basic clinical chemistry tests, therapeutic drug monitoring, thyroid testing on adults, and all the newborn screening testing for the state. The section represents the biggest volume lab in the division. The section performed **178,977** tests on **45,080** adults in the clinical area and **395,485** tests on **79,097** infants in the newborn screening area

resulting in **574,462** tests performed in FY 99. Of these screening tests the section identified **17** infants for PKU; referred **91** infants for galactosemia including 8 positives; referred **72** infants for hemoglobin abnormalities; and referred **492** infants for further evaluation for thyroid gland function. The section has implemented new testing for two newborn screening tests. One, EIA PKU, has allowed for results of PKU testing the same day specimens are received.

The Instrumentation Section provides chemical analysis to the Labor Cabinet's Kentucky OSHA program, the Environmental Management, Food Safety and Milk Safety Branches of the DPH, the Dental Health Program, and local health departments. The pesticide area of the section tested catfish, paddlefish, and paddlefish roe for the Food Branch in association with the Department for Fish and Wildlife.

The Radiation/Environmental Monitoring Section conducts a statewide environmental monitoring program. The section conducted approximately **26,000** environmental analyses and quality control checks for radiation. To determine the impacts of ionizing radiation on health, safety, and the environment, the Radiation/Environmental Monitoring Section analyzes samples from and next to the defunct Maxey Flats low-level nuclear waste disposal site and the Paducah gaseous diffusion plant. The laboratory also conducts analyses for naturally occurring radioactive materials. The Toxicology Section conducts analysis for coroners and medical examiners. Toxicological analysis was provided in **2,597** cases. Toxicology staff appeared in court as expert witnesses in **20** trials. Training was provided for coroners through classroom instruction.

Microbiology Branch

The Bacteriology and Parasitology Section is composed of three testing programs. The sanitary bacteriology laboratory tests drinking water samples, recreational water samples, milk and dairy samples, and food. The lab was successful in isolating *Listeria monocytogenes* from a number of samples of prepared salads and their components. The lab also tests for botulism toxin. Several cases were positive in the last year.

The Bacteriology and Parasitology Program tests clinical specimens for intestinal parasites and enteric pathogens. Referred specimens are also received from throughout the state for identification, grouping, and serotyping of enteric pathogens. DNA testing is done to determine if patients from STD, family planning, and prenatal clinics are infected with *Chlamydia trachomatis* and/or *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

The Mycobacteriology Program started using a rapid method for culture of specimens for Mycobacteria several years ago. Identification of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, *Mycobacterium gordonae*, and *Mycobacterium avium*, complex by DNA probes has been in place for several years. The laboratory is using HPLC methodology for identification of Mycobacteria sp. All of these methods have resulted in a reduction of the amount of time required to isolate and identify Mycobacteria. In addition, the Amplified Nucleic Acid (MTD) test is now being done on sputum specimens that are smear positive. This test is useful in cases where it is important to know whether or not the acid-fast organism is *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex.

The Serology Section performs HIV-1, hepatitis, syphilis, rubella, and immuno-hematology testing in support of the Divisions of Epidemiology and Adult and Child Health (ACH). The section also performs HIV-1 testing in conjunction with the Justice Cabinet for persons convicted of sexual offenses and prostitution. The section started providing Rubella IgM testing in December 1997. The section collaborated with Louisville-Jefferson County Health Department,

Lexington-Fayette County Health Department, and Epidemiology in evaluating rapid test for HIV-1. The section also provided bench training for students in college and vocational school laboratory programs from Eastern Kentucky University and Kentucky Technical College.

In the Virology and Fluorescent Antibody Section

- One staff member received advanced rabies training at the CDC in Atlanta.
- The section has completed its 42nd year as a WHO Collaborating Laboratory for influenza.
- The 1998-99 influenza season resulted in **65** influenza isolates.
Strain identification yielded **43** A/Sydney and **22** B/Beijing isolates.
- **22** cases of positive animal Rabies were discovered and enabled necessary treatment to be started for the people involved.
- **292** cases of Herpes virus were isolated and identified.

Technical and Administrative Services Branch

The **Technical and Administrative Services Branch** consists of two sections that provide essential services to the Laboratory and to local health departments. The division's Quality Assurance program has been designated as "the best in the state" by CLIA inspectors. Branch staff provided newborn screening including follow-up on more than **4,000** abnormal screening results and more than **12,000** letters to parents and physicians. Computerized newborn screening data were extracted and compiled into reports for the Council of Regional Networks for Genetic Services and the Association of Public Health Laboratories.

The Administrative Services Section is primarily responsible for data management and reporting of medical laboratory results, data entry of patient demographics, procurement and distribution of equipment and supplies, inventory control, and equipment maintenance and repair. In fulfilling these responsibilities, staff performed data entry on more than **290,000** specimens. More than **10,000** telephone inquiries were fielded regarding test results and demographic data necessary for patient identification. Administrative services staff labeled and boxed more than **200,000** reports and records for archiving.

The Technical Services Section provides laboratory support services including receipt and distribution of more than **230,000** medical laboratory specimens, glassware preparation, waste collection, and decontamination. Staff prepared and dispensed more than **42,000** units of media and reagents used for laboratory tests, and assembled and shipped more than **267,000** kits for collecting and mailing laboratory specimens. A semi-annual milk testing survey of Grade "A" dairy laboratories was provided to support the Milk Control Branch. Split samples were provided for six Grade "A" dairy laboratories and **20** analysts. Samples were also provided for **16** sites covering **100** analysts for drug residues only.

Division of Local Health Department Operations

The **Division of Local Health Department Operations** provides support to local health departments in personnel management, training and staff development, support for medical records management and the local health network, policy interpretation, and public health nursing. The division is the primary liaison between the DPH and local health departments.

Local Personnel Branch

The **Local Personnel Branch** operates and maintains a separate personnel program for **52** local health departments and their **3,300** employees. The branch acts for a five-member Local Health Department Employment Personnel Council and recommends changes in the compensation and classification plan. The branch helps health departments recruit qualified employees by reviewing applications; administering and grading examinations; processing personnel appointments, salary adjustments, reclassifications, and promotions; and maintaining master personnel records and a register of applicants. Increased emphasis is being placed on training health departments' management and supervisory staff on personnel issues and regulations in order to strengthen their personnel systems.

Public Health Nursing Branch

The **Public Health Nursing Branch**, now two years old, continues to operate as a Registered Nurse TEAM, with its primarily focus on facilitating public health nursing through local health departments. Enabling local public health nurses to be an integral part of the seven Core Public Health Functions is the primary purpose of the Public Health Nursing Branch.

Public health nurses provide nursing leadership and support in order to empower local health department nurses to provide population-focused community based services and to achieve public health objectives on an individual community or county basis. Assignments have been made for each nurse to be a regional nurse consultant, to serve as a liaison to each departmental division, to be responsible for particular major topic areas, and to be familiar with Managed Care Regions of the state.

The branch promotes public health at the local level in several ways:

- Serving as primary team members of on-site reviews of local health departments to assure for the safety of the public and quality of health care to Kentucky's citizens; providing intensive technical assistance to three counties, including actual service delivery of health care.
- Providing **102** on-site visits to local health departments to help move from providing care "in the clinic" to being responsible for the "public- at-large" health, viewing the "whole community" as their clients;
- Providing "Transition Model" training for local health departments to focus on Core Public Health, helping to adapt it to fit each community through follow-up visits and phone discussions
- Providing technical assistance in developing more efficient clinic flow and patient management processes to approximately **30** local health departments.

- Assisting local public health nurses to obtain skills and knowledge for functioning in ever-changing health care and electronic communications
- Coordinating with the Training and Staff Development Branch to help facilitate Core Public health at the state level and within each local community; participating in seven public health practice conferences, and providing slide presentations at five
- Promoting public health nursing by making presentations to community nursing students at Eastern Kentucky University, one of which was a video conference with five satellite sites across the eastern portion of Kentucky
- Orienting **45** counties to the process of disaster preparedness and assisting counties in developing their local Disaster and Response and Recovery Plans

Public Health Support Branch

The **Public Health Support Branch** has strengthened its ability to help local health departments with proper reporting and record keeping. The branch's motto "Do it right the first time" has led to improved data collection, fewer billing errors, maximized collections, and improved overall efficiency in health records. Finally, the division has worked with local health departments and the Department for Medicaid Services and the private sector to identify alternative sources of revenue for local health departments.

The branch strengthens and enhances the operation of local health departments through administrative support systems, such as an automated patient and service reporting that tracked **6,754,775** services to **764,353** *unduplicated* patients in fiscal 1998. Additionally, the branch helps in maintaining a statewide on-line computer network with at least one site in each of Kentucky's 120 counties. The branch operates the local health network's HELP DESK that provides assistance to local health departments on the network, and in troubleshooting computer problems.

The branch provides technical assistance and consultation to local health departments for the **396** service delivery sites on medical record standards. On-site consultation and record review assure adherence to these standards. Other responsibilities include the following:

- Development and refinement of integrated patient records and generic forms
- Technical assistance to health departments on patient intake, registration, patient flow, and coding of clinical services
- Responses to special data requests from health departments and DPH's staff, HELP DESK back-up, and development of departmental publications available to local health departments and the public
- Development of procedures for the security access for all system users of the local health network
- Working with DPH programs and the Public Health Nursing Branch to assist local departments with the delivery of health services and patient care, and development and implementation of quality assurance
- Maintaining the Records Retention and Disposal Schedule and providing technical assistance in all areas of records retention and disposal for DPH and local health departments

Training and Staff Development Branch

The **Training and Development Branch** serves as the training “knowledge broker” for the DPH and the health departments by identifying resources and matching them with training. The branch coordinates state and local training by distributing a monthly training calendar that also lists the video and audiotape holdings. The branch also works with planning groups to develop and maintain a core curriculum of training.

The branch processed more than **1,500** requests for training, which represents an **85 percent** increase over the past fiscal year. Agencies used in the training included the Governmental Services Center (GSC), the Department of Information Systems (DIS), private consultants, and the Emory University Regional Training Center. The branch administers continuing education courses for nurses through a providership approved by the Kentucky Board of Nursing. This providership provided continuing education units through **54** courses with **369** contact hours to **3,219** nurses.

The branch edits a monthly newsletter, *The Local Health Link*, which is distributed to health departments and central offices. The training calendar and newsletter have been added to the department’s home page on the Internet. The branch worked with DPH’s divisions and other state and local staff to conduct six regional conferences during the fiscal year.

Additional activities include:

- Bioterrorism Grant Writing
- Early Childhood Development
- Comprehensive School Health Workgroups
- “Body Fat Analysis” at the State Fair
- Epidemiology classes

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

The **Division of Public Health Protection and Safety** includes programs related to the enforcement of public health regulations for environmental health and community safety. The division works closely with local health departments to make sure that Kentuckians are protected from unsafe consumer products, unnecessary radiation exposure, unsanitary milk, adulterated and misbranded food, unsanitary public facilities, and malfunctioning sewage systems. State staff are responsible for radiation health and safety issues involving both the natural environment and organizations using radioactive materials, inspection of x-ray equipment, Grade “A” milk production, public health aspects of chemical weapons storage at the Blue Grass Army Depot, and certification of public swimming pool designs.

Environmental Management Branch

The **Environmental Management Branch** has two sections, Community Environment and Facilities Environment. The branch seeks to prevent disease and eliminate existing unsanitary conditions and safety hazards in public facilities as well as in an individual’s personal environment. The branch performs the following functions:

- Establishes sanitary standards of operation

- Issues permits to construct on-site sewage disposal systems and septage treatment sites
- Trains and certifies on-site sewage disposal system inspectors
- Certifies training and service providers regarding lead abatement and on-site system installers
- Conducts review and approval of construction plans for public swimming and bathing facilities
- Conducts consumer product safety programs
- Conducts and coordinates radon mitigation training and public education programs

In fiscal 1999 the branch issued **22,031** permits and conducted **25,711** site evaluations and enforcements

Food Safety Branch

The **Food Safety Branch** prohibits the sale of adulterated, misbranded, or falsely advertised foods and food products and eliminates unsanitary conditions in tattoo studios and boarding homes. The branch provides planning, monitoring, training, and evaluation for health department food, tattoo studio, and boarding home surveillance programs. Interpretation, consultation, standardization of inspections, and program evaluation are provided to health departments who issue permits to operate, provide inspections, and carry-out enforcement procedures. Investigation samples are collected from food service establishments, retail food stores, vending machine companies, food manufacturing and storage plants, and from the state's raw agricultural producers for pesticide residues. It maintains standards of identity for various standardized foods and sets acceptable compliance levels for all food establishments in the state.

The branch

- Issued **24,051** retail food, tattoo, and boarding home permits
- Provided **78,472** surveillance activities
- Destroyed **324,189** pounds of adulterated food
- Collected **514** samples
- Trained **21** new local health department environmentalists
- Standardized six retail food specialists
- Trained environmentalists for the state fair
- Received 34 consumer complaints forwarded from FDA
- Announced and monitored 63 recalls

The branch routinely receives consumer complaints or inquiries relating to foods, drugs, and cosmetics that have been consumed or purchased. Consumer complaints range from concern over retail food stores, food service establishments, salvage food establishments, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, boarding homes and tattoo parlors. Typically, the Food Safety Branch receives approximately ten complaints or inquiries per month.

The Food Safety Branch routinely receives food-drug-cosmetic recall information. If the recalled product was manufactured or distributed in Kentucky, a recall alert is sent to all local health departments.

Milk Safety Branch

The Milk Safety Branch prevents adulteration, misbranding, and false advertising of milk and milk products and protects the public from disease transmission through milk products. The branch oversees inspections of dairy farms, dairy plants, and dairy processors. It is also concerned with the development of product standards of identity and legal labeling of all dairy products mandated by the Food and Drug Administration.

The Milk Safety Program conducted **9,480** inspections of **2,722** dairies, processing plants, receiving/transfer stations, samplers, haulers, trucks, and distributors. There were **876,161** pounds of Grade "A" milk diverted for manufacturing purposes, **282,681** pounds of milk destroyed due to substandard quality, and **3,697,577** pounds of milk destroyed due to the Drug Residue Testing Program. There were **30,993** samples collected, **3,148** first notices issued, **1,795** notice of-intent-to-suspend, **570** permits suspended, and **558** reinstatements. A total of **12** were conducted, **97** plans reviewed, **46** surveys/check ratings, **seven** Grade A laboratory evaluations, **ten** drug residue testing sites, and **11** USDA survey inspections. A total of **758** conferences were conducted with producers, plants, fieldmen, and haulers, **28** special investigations and **58** on-going plant investigations.

Radiation Health and Toxic Agents Branch

The **Radiation Health and Toxic Agents Branch** ensures the beneficial use of radiation, protects the public from unnecessary exposure to the harmful effects of radiation, and protects the nine counties surrounding the Bluegrass Army Depot from the impact of chemical warfare agents.

Radiation Health is responsible for licensure, registration, and certification of all uses of radiation. The program conducts inspections and environmental surveillance, manages compliance activities, and is responsible for statewide emergency response to radiological incidents. The Radiation Health Program undertakes activities related to microwave ovens and video display terminals, and collects information on non-ionizing radiation, such as laser and high-tension electrical lines. The U.S. Department of Energy provides an on-going grant for evaluating the impact of ionizing radiation on public health and safety as related to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant.

The Radiation Producing Machines Section and Radioactive Materials Section inspect facilities with radiation tubes and certified mammography equipment. The Radiation Health and Toxic Agents Section entered into a new cost-reimbursement contract with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to continue annual inspection of all mammography facilities. The branch inspects radioactive material licensees.

The Radiation Control Program and the Department for Environmental Protection have conducted reviews of the documents for the initial remediation of the Maxey Flats Disposal Site. There is an agreement with the University of Kentucky to assist in the review and evaluation of the initial remedial phase design documents for the site.

The Radiation Control Program continues its activities under a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to address radiation health, safety, and environmental issues at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The program has assisted the DOE in a number of sampling and remedial efforts at the Paducah plant.

The division is currently working toward entering into a memorandum of agreement with the U.S. E.P.A. Underground Injection Control Program to reduce regulatory duplication. Recently the E.P.A. began requiring permits for septic systems that serve 20 or more persons. This is in

addition to the state's permit program the division has administered for the past 15 years. To eliminate this duplication, it is anticipated that an agreement will be reached that would allow acceptance of the division's permit program by the E.P.A. The goal is to allow "one-stop shopping" for the permits needed to install a new septic system.

The division has also been working with the state Department for Environmental Protection in overseeing the remediation of the naturally occurring radioactive material from the Martha Oil Field in Lawrence and Johnson counties. Many tons of contaminated soil have been removed from the former wellhead and have been placed in a temporary containment cell.

The division is beginning a new initiative with the Department for Environmental Protection to develop a memorandum of agreement that would authorize local health departments to approve spray irrigation sewage disposal systems. If successful this initiative would allow easier access to the spray irrigation option. It would also give additional oversight to the local departments to assure that proper sanitary conditions are maintained.

The Radioactive Materials Section inspects and licenses **397** specific licensees of radioactive materials in the fields of medicine, industry, research, and academia. In addition, the section has **14** *in vitro/in vivo* general licenses and **173** other general licenses. The section also assists the program manager when radioactive materials and waste are being transported through the state and responds to radiological emergencies 24 hours a day.

The Radiation Producing Machine Section inspects and registers **3,595** facilities that use radiation-producing machines. The section also issues certificates and inspects approximately **6,527** operators of sources of radiation to ensure compliance with existing statutes and regulations. It annually inspects schools of radiologic technology, provides home study course material to approximately **90** qualified individuals, and coordinates continuing education credit hours as a prerequisite to re-certification. The section inspects **205** mammography facilities to assure they meet the requirements of the Mammography Quality Standards Act of 1992.

The Radiation Health Program annually conducts approximately **15,000** environmental analyses and quality control checks for radiation in all media. To determine the impacts of ionizing radiation on health and safety and the environment, the Radiation/ Environmental Monitoring Section analyzes samples from and surrounding the defunct Maxey Flats Disposal Site and the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. The laboratory also conducts analyses of various media, such as radio-nuclides in drinking water, to evaluate impacts on health and safety.

The Toxic Agents Program ensures the medical preparedness of the nine counties surrounding the Bluegrass Army Depot in Richmond. A federal grant from the U.S. Army funds the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program. The program ensures that the nine counties have emergency plans for medical preparedness. They include a mechanism for training of medical and emergency medical personnel within the counties and resources for antidotal drugs, supplies, and equipment.

Division of Resource Management

The **Division of Resource Management** represents a consolidation of all financial management functions in the department and reduces the duplication of grant allocation and payment, permits and fee collection, procurement, and contracts. Resource Management develops and oversees the DPH budget and local health departments' fiscal planning and their administrative and management practices. It provides administrative support to local health departments in all 120 counties of the Commonwealth. This division does not determine what to buy; that is determined by those responsible for achieving health outcomes; however, the division does determine how the funds will be disbursed. The centralized approach to financial management permits large scale fiscal planning rather than a program-by-program approach.

Financial Management Branch

The **Financial Management Branch** develops paper-less, combined program planning and budget procedures for all health departments.

The Environmental Systems Support Section provides technical and administrative support to the local health departments and DPH's divisions on the service reporting and financial aspects of environmental programs administered by local health departments. The section collects environmental revenues, issues permits for the environmental programs, and provides training to health departments' environmental personnel. The section issues permits, collects fees, and oversees the financial management of the Division of Public Health Protection and Safety. In the past year, the section reviewed and evaluated local health departments' environmental fee accounts and assessed compliance with inspection frequencies set by environmental health law and regulation.

Information Technology Management Branch

The **Information Technology Management Branch** consolidates information technology for the department. The branch fulfills the business functions of the Department through managed information, processes, and technology.

The branch maintains the department's INTRANET, which is an internal network that provides the electronic communication of Executive Staff Meeting minutes, directories, maps, organizational charts, electronic forms, graphic/images, conference schedules, training calendar, newsletters, reports, manuals, Internet links, and policies and procedures.

A network of multiple servers provide file and print management and communications for remote access and fax, and also handles specialized databases, among them vendor monitoring, child fatality, and birth surveillance. Standardized workstations on one operating system adhere to the Commonwealth's enterprise standards.

Consultants are assisting the department in the development of a Public Health Data Model for future system developments. Databases must be designed with a common format and definition that supports the information requirements and eliminates the need for interfaces. This effort is consistent with the Enterprise Common Data Definition initiative, the EMPOWER KY Simplified

Access initiative, as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Common Data Definitions.

An Information Technology Vision Document that will guide in building an integrated health and human services information system is also being developed. This initiative is consistent with the Kentucky Public Health Improvement Plan's objective to design and implement a new information system that will assist in the transition of public health to a population-based focus.

The first two systems development efforts are focused on Vital Statistics and Immunization. For Vital Statistics private consultants have assisted the department in conducting an internal and external study which includes process redesigns, potential constraints and alternatives, and recommendations. The next step is the preparation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for new systems development. This system will become the foundation for the integrated health information system, which will include the following:

- Registration of births from hospitals or birthing centers
- Central office fee accounting module
- Issuance of certified copies of birth and death certificates by local registrars
- Electronic issue of birth and death certificates
- Data imaging and archiving
- Automatic coding of death certificates

The branch is proposing the creation of an automated system to support the Immunization Program. The modernized immunization system will provide records in a timely and efficient manner. A pilot KIH Project in local health departments includes four sites: Green River District, Lake Cumberland District and Mercer County and Franklin County. Using intelligent workstations, e-mail, file transfer, service report and financial data, INTRANET and Internet access, it is anticipated that the pilot will provide a base for other health departments.

Procurement Branch

The **Procurement Branch** coordinates several functions for the department:

- Moving telephones and minor construction projects with the building superintendent
- Equal employment opportunity (EEO)
- Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)
- Bid process for medical supplies
- Senate Bill 66, the matching grant program receiving and funding process for ambulance service personnel and equipment.

The branch maintains the Title VI program, which covers the public's rights to access to vital statistics. It also maintains the Physician Liability Insurance Program for the five physicians and other administrators in DPH.

Two sections make up the branch, Grants Management and Contract and Purchasing. The Grants Management Section is responsible for **\$69 million** in grants and payments to **55** local health departments. The section makes sure that these state and federal funds mesh with the DPH's administrative policy and federal guidelines.

The Grants Management Section consolidates the grant allocation and payments functions for the department. Last fiscal year the Section processed **3,385** grants, which required **8,988** payments

to local health departments. Cross training of staff has been accomplished so that each knows the others' duties. One can now contact staff in a single section to check on a grant instead of making inquiries in various areas of the department.

The Contract/Purchasing Section consolidates purchasing and contract management functions. In administering the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) grants, the section reviewed and funded **100** EMS applications for matching grants funds for personnel and equipment. This section plans and directs all personal and program administration contracts. This year DPH has **23** personal service contracts totaling **\$6,744,400** and **22** program administration contracts totaling **\$8,109,800**. The section supervises the vaccine lab that distributes medical supplies and vaccines in the state. Other responsibilities include filing monthly provider tax returns for the local health departments.

BIRTH AND DEATH STATISTICS IN KENTUCKY

Table I. Resident Live Births by Age of Mother - 1998

Age of Mother	Number of Live Births	% of Live Births	% Change from 1997
Less than 15 Years	125	0.23	-15.5
15 to 19 Years	8,240	15.22	-2.9
20 to 24 Years	16,290	30.10	3.2
25 to 29 Years	15,266	28.21	4.8
30 to 34 Years	9,746	18.01	2.8
35 to 39 Years	3,796	7.01	1.3
40 to 44 Years	611	1.13	3.6
45 Years and Older	32	0.06	100.0
Unknown	19	0.04	-34.5
Total	54,125	100.00	2.4

Table II. Resident Deaths by Cause of Death - 1998

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths	% of Deaths
Diseases of Heart	11,876	31.4
Malignant Neoplasms	8,938	23.6
Cerebrovascular Diseases	2,511	6.6
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Diseases	2,002	5.3
Unintentional Injuries	1,675	4.4
Pneumonia and Influenza	1,496	4.0
Diabetes Mellitus	1,067	2.8
Suicide	525	1.4
Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis	521	1.4
Septicemia	487	1.3
All Other	6,727	17.8
Total	37,825	100.0

Sources: 1998 Vital Statistics Birth and Death Files

**Actual Sources and Expenditures of Funds by Division
Fiscal Year 1999**

Division	Division Totals	<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>		
		General Funds	Restricted Agency Fund	Federal Funds
Adult & Child Health	\$ 129,572,332	\$ 26,710,980	\$ 340,730	\$ 102,520,622
General Health Support (Resource Management, Local Health Dept. Operations, and Commissioner's Office)	\$ 16,201,749	\$ 13,274,341	\$ 2,468,408	\$ 459,000
Epidemiology and Health Planning	\$ 19,724,484	\$ 7,989,812	\$ 1,777,977	\$ 9,956,695
Laboratory Services	\$ 5,449,546	\$ 4,378,600	\$ 887,186	\$ 183,760
Public Health Protection and Safety	\$ 7,342,254	\$ 2,626,526	\$ 3,652,884	\$ 1,062,844
TOTAL % of Funds/Expend.	\$ 178,290,365 100%	\$ 54,980,259 30.9%	\$ 9,127,185 5.1%	\$ 114,182,921 64.0%
Division	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
	Personnel	Operating Expenses	Grants/Loans/ Benefits	Capital Outlay
Adult & Child Health	\$ 6,895,606	\$ 2,159,229	\$ 120,494,687	\$ 22,810
General Health Support (Resource Management, Local Health Dept. Operations, and Commissioner's Office)	\$ 6,244,661	\$ 900,185	\$ 9,056,903	N/A
Epidemiology and Health Planning	\$ 5,030,512	\$ 2,980,231	\$ 11,608,008	\$ 105,733
Laboratory Services	\$ 2,847,163	\$ 2,558,087	\$ (2,949)	\$ 47,245
Public Health Protection and Safety	\$ 3,811,930	\$ 868,295	\$ 2,587,853	\$ 74,176

**Actual Sources and Expenditures of Funds by Division
Fiscal Year 1999**

Division	Division Totals	<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>		
		General Funds	Restricted Agency Fund	Federal Funds
TOTAL	\$ 24,829,872	\$ 9,466,027	\$ 143,744,502	\$ 249,964
% of Funds/Expend.	13.9%	5.3%	80.6%	0.2%

FIVE
DIRECTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
December 1999

Division/Branch/Section	Name	Telephone
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(502) 564- 4-digit #

Commissioner's Office

Commissioner	Rice C. Leach, M.D.	3970
Deputy Commissioner	Sharon Stumbo	3970
Director of Nursing	Sarah Wilding	3970
Legislative Liaison	James Carreer	3970
Principal Assistant	Sylvia Cherry	3970

Division of Adult and Child Health

Division Director	Steve Davis, M.D.	4830
Assistant Division Directors	Lynne Flynn & Marvin Miller	4830
Oral Health Program	Steve Wyatt, D.M.D.	3246
Clinical Health Branch	Ann Tarter	3527
Adult Clinical Section		3527
Pediatric Clinical Section		3236
Community Health Branch	Greg Lawther	7996
Administration	Lois Robinson	7996
Adult Health Promotion		7996
Child Health Promotion	Jennifer Bryson	2154
Primary Care	Danise Newton	8966
Drug Enforcement & Prof Prac Br.	Danna Droz	7985
Emergency Med. Service (EMS) Br.	Bob Calhoun	8963
Certific & Training Section	Marcia Burklow	8963
Providers Lic & Field Serv Section	Vacant	8963
Nutrition Services Branch	Fran Hawkins	3827
Clinical Nutrition Section	Emma Walters	2339
Food Delivery/Data Section	Joe Greenwell	2514
Program Management Section	Janet Johnson	3869
Vendor Management Section	Ruthanne Boyles	4953

Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning

Division/Branch/Section	Name	Telephone
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(502) 564- 4-digit #

Division Director	Glyn Caldwell, M.D.	7243
Asst. Division Director	Mike Auslander, D.V.M.	
Communicable Disease Branch	Glyn Caldwell, M.D. (acting)	3261
Immunization Section	Sandra Gambescia	4478
STD/HIV Counseling Section	David Raines	4804
Tuberculosis Control Section	Linda Jackson	4276
Health Data Branch	George Robertson	2757
Health Policy Develop. Branch	Charles Kendell	9592
HIV/AIDS Branch	Gary Kupchinsky	6539
Surveillance & Investigation Branch	Mike Auslander, D.V.M.	3418
Injury Prevention	Carl Spurlock, Ph.D.	606-257-4954
Public Health Veterinarian	Mike Auslander, D.V.M	3418
Vital Statistics Branch	Sandra Davis	4212
Certification Section	Elizabeth Browning	4212
Registration & Amendment Section	Tom Griffin	4212

Division of Laboratory Services

Division Director	Samuel Gregorio	4446
Chemistry Branch		
Biochemistry Section	Linda Dailey	4446
Instrumentation Chemistry Section	Margaret Porter	4446
Radiation/Environtal Monitoring	Eric Scott	8390
Toxicology Section	Michael Ward	4446
Microbiology Branch	(vacant)	4446
Bacteriology & Parasitology Section	Norma Carlin	4446
Serology Section	Brenda Shipp	4446
Virology & Fluoresc. Micro. Section	Diane Young	4446
Technical & Adm. Services Branch	Cathy Higginbotham	4446
Administrative Services Section	Jeanette Wilhoite	4446
Technical Services Section	William Black	4446

Division of Local Health Department Operations

Division Director	Patrick Rickard	4990
Assistant Division Director	Lynn Owens	4990
Local Personnel Branch	Bob Nelson	3796
Public Health Nursing Branch	Linda Burke	7213
Public Health Support Branch	Rondia Burdine	7213
Training/Staff Development Branch	Eula Spears	4990

<u>Division/Branch/Section</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
(502) 564- 4-digit #		

Division of Public Health Protection and Safety

Division Director	David Klee, R.S.	7398
Assistant Division Director	Mark Hooks, R.S.	7398
Environmental Mgt Branch	David Nichols	4856
Community Environ. Section	Wes Combs	4856
Facilities Environ. Section	Beth Huff	4856
Food Safety Branch	Guy Delius	7181
Milk Safety Branch	Morris Strevels	3340
Radiation Health & Toxic Agents Branch	John Volpe, Ph.D.	3700
Radioactive Materials Section	Vicki Jeffs	3700
Radiation Producing Machines	Dewey Crawford	3700

Division of Resource Management

Division Director	Suann Hudson	6663
Assistant Division Director	Gary Grubbs	6663
Assistant Division Director	Melissa Lawrence	6663
Financial Management Branch	J. R. Nash	6663
Local Fiscal Management Section	Paul Royce	6663
Third Party Reimbursement Section	Steve Pennington	6663
Environmental Support Section	Sam Burnette	3127
Information Technology Branch	Suann Hudson (Acting)	6663
Procurement Branch	Vacant	6663
Contract/Purchasing Section	Bill Robinson	6663
Grants Management Section	Hal Fink	6663

Sylvia Cherry, Editor

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